

Managing Distractibility in the Learning and Work Environments

Job Corps students, especially those studying business occupations or a computer-related trade, may find themselves learning office skills in a distracting environment. This poses a significant problem to students with cognitive disabilities, such as attention deficit hyperactive disorder (AD/HD), Asperger syndrome, bipolar disorder, depression, or learning disabilities.

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) receives many calls asking for accommodation ideas to help individuals work effectively in distracting environments (e.g., cubicles or shared offices). These suggestions could be helpful to Job Corps students who have disabilities that interfere with concentration:



- Students with cognitive disabilities may have disorganized workspaces. Assist students in setting up their workspace with necessary supplies and label and organize materials on a regular basis. Provide instruction and guidance on strategies for maintaining an organized work environment.
- Students with cognitive disabilities may be easily distracted. Ensure classroom distractions are kept to a minimum. These students may need extra time to work alone in a quiet environment to complete their work. Consider surrounding distractions when determining seating placement.

- Students with cognitive disabilities may have a difficult time adhering to due dates and managing their time. These students could be given extra help planning their tasks and adhering to deadlines.
- Something as simple as a classroom that is too hot or too cold may be distracting for students with cognitive impairments. Make an effort to keep classrooms at a suitable temperature for the comfort of all students.

More information is available on this topic at:
<http://www.jan.wvu.edu/corner/vol03iss06.htm>

2006 Disability Mentoring Day

Disability Mentoring Day will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. Students and jobseekers with disabilities will have an opportunity to shadow and explore various careers through information sessions and one-on-one mentoring. Areas around the country and internationally are encouraged to promote their own disability mentoring activities in the weeks and months following this celebration.



These experiences can provide an opportunity for Job Corps students with disabilities to learn about the connection between the training they receive on center and the world of work. Students will also benefit from the opportunity to evaluate their personal goals and explore a range of possible career paths.

Local events have been planned throughout the country. Visit the Local Coordinators page <http://www.dmd-aapd.org/coordlist/coordlist.php> for a local contact person.

Job Corps Resources

Job Corps DisABILITY Website

<http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/>

CIS Disability Data Collection

http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/html/orientation_prh_2.htm

Disability Posters

Several centers have requested posters that spread messages of inclusion.

Disability is Natural- Wall Art Display Poster

<http://www.disabilityisnatural.com/store/WallArt.html>

Get Caught Reading Posters

<http://www.afb.org/store/product.asp?sku=GCR-Weiheimayer&mcsid=U93XAN>

<http://www.afb.org/store/product.asp?sku=GCR%2DDuke&mcsid=2PSQ9DNPBKUW9JLTVW3TXBKW4HRN4KH6>

New PowerPoint Presentations

Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder

<http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/documents/slides/ldandadhd.ppt>

Disability Sensitivity

http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/documents/slides/disability_sensitivity_july19v.2.ppt

Job Corps Inclusion CD Available

Ten Simple Strategies for Enhancing Educational Experiences

how ten simple research-based teaching strategies can do just that.

Most students with disabilities are successfully learning and joining in the same academic and career technical training classrooms with their non-disabled peers.

Inclusion is possible for ALL students. The key to success for inclusion is to use a variety of teaching strategies that motivate and make learning meaningful for ALL. This CD was created at a Job Corps center to demonstrate

The CDs are available upon request; contact Debra Pinkett (debra.pinkett@humanitas.com).



Get Accommodation Ideas from SOAR

The Job Accommodation Network's (JAN) Searchable Online Accommodation Resource (SOAR) provides accommodation ideas for a variety of impairments. The database is located at <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/soar/disabilities.html>.

After logging onto this site, choose from a list of disabilities, which include learning disabilities, psychiatric disabilities, hearing and vision impairments. Each of these links offers more information on the disability and possible accommodations for a variety of needs associated with the disability. For example, if learning disabilities is selected, key terms, such as dyslexia and dysgraphia are defined. People with learning disabilities may experience difficulty with reading, writing, mathematics, communicating, or working with management and organization. Possible accommodations for each of these areas of difficulty are offered.

SOAR provides information on other, more specific impairments, such as kidney disease, migraine headaches, one-hand use, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Information on products for people with motor, vision, and hearing impairments is listed in this resource as well.

JAN can be contacted at 1-800-526-7234.

October is National Disability Awareness Month

Just a reminder that October is National Disability Awareness month. Suggestions for center activities are contained in the June 2006 disABILITY News. Centers conducting or participating in any awareness month activities or events should contact Michelle Day at michelle.day@humanitas.com to have their efforts recognized on the Job Corps disability website.